

Topic:

ABMDR - A Unique Pan Armenian Global Operation

Guests:

Frieda Jordan, CHS, PhD

Varoosh Alaverdian, MD, FACOG

Dr. Frieda Jordan is the co-founder and president of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (AMBDR), a pan-Armenian nonprofit organization established in 1999 to bring the hope of life-saving bone marrow stem cell transplantation to thousands afflicted by life-threatening blood-related illnesses. Her volunteer leadership of the ABMDR is built on a lifelong career in immunogenetics. After earning a PhD in biochemistry from Kings College London University, Dr. Jordan headed the Laboratory Services of the Anthony Nolan Research Center at the Royal Free Hospital in London. Subsequently she was appointed Associate Director of the HLA and Immunogenetics Laboratory at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, in Los Angeles. Since 2000, she has managed the DNA Molecular Typing Division at Foundation Laboratory, also in Los Angeles. Through her work with ABMDR, Dr. Jordan has promoted health awareness and quality healthcare in Armenia, Artsakh, and Armenian communities across the globe. As importantly, she has raised the international stature of the Republic of Armenia's expertise and impact in the healthcare field. In 2009, Dr. Jordan and her colleagues launched the ABMDR Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Armenia. In 2013, the Center performed Armenia's first-ever autotransplantation procedure, and, in 2014, launched its cord blood banking division to help save more lives. The scale and scope of ABMDR's mission have grown consistently. Presently the organization works in 42 countries across four continents. To date, it has recruited over 29,000 donors, identified 4,190 patients, and facilitated 31 bone marrow transplants.



Dr. Varoosh Alaverdian completed his premedical and medical school at University of Pahlavi, Shiraz, Iran; he graduated as a valedictorian. He then completed his Residency in OBGYN at University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics, Lying-in Hospital. He then went on to fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at the combined program of University of California at Los Angeles, and City of Hope National Cancer center, Duarte, California. He is a staff member at Dept. of OBGYN Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Bellflower California since 1976. He is an Associate Professor of OBGYN, Harbor/UCLA Medical center. Dr. Alaverdian has been semiretired since 2007.

"Your Health" host Dr. Vicken Sepilian is board-certified in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, as well as Obstetrics and Gynecology. He completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Drexel University College of Medicine and his fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the University of Texas. While at the University of Texas, Dr. Sepilian received a Master of Science degree in Reproductive Medicine studying the impact of nutrition on reproductive health. Dr. Sepilian is the founder and medical director of American Fertility Specialists Medical Group and practices in Los Angeles and Glendale. Dr. Sepilian is a current board member and former President of the Armenian American Medical Society (AAMS). In 2008, he launched the AAMS "Your Health" Community Education Program that continues to air live on TV making house calls to countless Armenian households. In 2010, Dr. Sepilian was instrumental in launching the inaugural Glendale Health Festival and served as the Chairman of the organizing committee for the first two years. In 2012, Dr. Sepilian presided over a collaborative effort with colleagues in Canada of the ACMAO to train, staff and equip the Women's Health Clinic in Stepanakert, Artsakh. This collaborative effort by the AAMS, ACMAO, and the Ministry of Health of Karabagh continues to operate and provide preventative and essential health care to women free of charge. In 2013, as president of the AAMS, Dr. Sepilian Chaired the 11th Armenian Medical World Congress, a quadrennial international multispecialty conference that was very well attended and was one of the most successful ones to date. Dr. Sepilian also serves on AAMS' Continuing Medical Education Committee, focusing his efforts on enhancing the experience for members.

Featuring physicians and health care professionals whose areas of practice cover the entire spectrum of allied health care, "Your Health" is a dynamic resource for viewers interested in improving their health. The program emphasizes the importance of preventative care, and focuses on how people can maintain a healthful lifestyle. The program provides an opportunity for the Armenian community to address their concerns with the counsel of bilingual health care professionals. The program also provides viewers with information about the AAMS and our activities in California and Armenia. The AAMS encourages individuals to contact local social workers to learn whether they are eligible for health insurance. AAMS doctors and nurses encourage their patients to get the insurance they deserve, and to see a physician regularly for the care that they need.